

Warrenton-Fauquier Airport

HWY: Highway to the Future

By John Hooper

Nestled amidst the beautiful, rolling countryside of Fauquier County lays Warrenton-Fauquier Airport (HWY). Previously known by airport identifier W66, the commissioning of an AWOS at the airport has changed the identifier to its current listing. Other pertinent upgrades, including its newly paved 5,000-foot runway and two new long rows of T-hangars, allow HWY to successfully serve the many flying needs of the rapidly developing area. HWY is also a popular spot for a fly-in visit for fine dining, horse shows, the Virginia Gold Cup Steeplechases and the nearby Flying Circus Airshows.

Fauquier County purchased the airport in 1992 and has continued acquiring land, expanding what used to be a 125-acre facility to over 400 acres today. To attract more and larger aircraft to be based at HWY, the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors eliminated the personal property tax on aircraft in 2006. Additionally, the longer, wider runway and new ILS, expected to be operational by September, will certainly be attractive to operators of corporate jets, particularly since the airport is located just outside the Washington, D.C. TFR. Though HWY is currently the home base for 125 aircraft, with the addition of the two new T-hangars, Airport Manager Mike Anderson expects the home based number to rise above 200 by the end of summer 2007.

Five miles south of HWY is The Flying Circus, putting on the Great American Airshow on Sunday afternoons from May through October. Throughout The Flying Circus' regular season, special weekend events are offered, including the spectacular balloon rally. Airshow operators offer shuttle services from HWY. Call HWY on Unicom 122.7 before arriving to arrange transportation. Visit www.flyingcircusairshow.com for more information.

The Virginia Gold Cup Steeplechase on the first Saturday in May and the International Gold Cup in October are two of the year's highlights for Washington society, particularly for the younger crowd. Over 60 colleges and universities have annual alumni parties scheduled during the spring steeplechase each year. While many arrive in Fauquier County by charter bus for the occasion, those from outside the Washington area will find flying into HWY the most convenient way to get to the party. Visit www.vagoldcup.com for more information.

For those who want the finest food and lodging in America, the Inn at Little Washington is located just over 20 miles west of HWY. It is the first establishment to receive the Mobil Guide five stars and the AAA five diamonds for both dining and accommodations. The Inn at Little Washington provides award-winning dining and luxurious service in a magnificent country setting. Dinners are fixed price and start at \$148 per person, more on the weekend, and still more to reserve kitchen tables. The 15 elegant rooms and suites start at \$410 per night on weeknights. The Inn at Little Washington is a great place to unwind from a fun-filled day at the Flying Circus or Gold Cup. Visit www.theinnatlittlewashington.com for more information about The Inn at Little Washington. If the Inn is a bit too sumptuous, the village of Washington, Virginia offers a quaint setting for shopping or just an historic stroll. ■

For more information on Warrenton-Fauquier Airport, visit www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments/airport.

